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RESEARCH ARTICLE

ETHNOBOTANICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN MARATHWADA, INDIA

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ABSTRACT

Present study deals with Ethno botanical investigations among rural population in Marathwada. Marathwada region comprising seven districts, Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani form a part of Vast Deccan Plateau of India, located 70°5' – 78°0' E longitude and 17°5' – 20°5' N longitude. An ethno botanical investigations has been carried out to record the indigenous knowledge of the ethnic communities of Marathwada. Marathwada have good association with plant resources. Authors have collected the information, for this authors visited villages such as Ambajogai, Parli-Vaijnath, Degloor, Nanded, Mahur, Daheli, Saradgaon, Kakhadi, Loha, Loni, Kinwat, Anandwadi etc. Photos of local inhabitants (medicinal men) also taken. The aim of study to disseminate this knowledge for benefit of poor people, as plants are easily available locally and utilized by local healers in day today life. So it must be preserved and propagated

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INTRODUCTION

In earlier days, the indigenous people of Marathwada fully depend on both wild and cultivated plants for their food, medicine and shelter and other uses. The indigenous people of Marathwada have recognized the biological and economic values of its natural forests. High human population surrounds all the forests. People got knowledge of plants from their ancestors through oral tradition. A number of plant species used in traditional medicine for the relief of pain and to cure various diseases have been selected or the medicinal and scientific literature (Sampsonetal 2000) of China, South America and West Africa, whether there was an indication of biological activity. The authors visited in the year 2004-05 to Marathwada region. Marathwada region comprising seven districts. Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Parbhani, Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, etc and its located 70°5' – 78°5' E longitude and 17°5' – 20°5' N longitude. Marathwada covers 64567 sq.Km. with attitude ranging tribles, sharing 6% of total rural population.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was carried out in the year 2005. The areas inhabited by different ethnic communities were surveyed. The first hand information obtained from aboriginals was cross checked with local medicine men. Authors visited places such as Bhagwati, Loni, Loha, Daheli, Kakhadi, Parli-Vaijnath, Ambajogai, Degloor, Anandwadi, Saradgaon etc. A standard questionnaire was used to collect the data. Which include plant local name, parts used, family and different methods of

preparation utilized to cure diseases. Photos of local inhabitants (medicinal men) also taken. The authenticity of the collected information was verified by repeated enquiries from Vaidyas, Hakims and Kavirajs. Important and authentic ethno medicinal literature was also consulted to verify information (Kirtikar and Basu 1975, Jain 1968, 1987 Jain and Mudgal 1999, Kumar 1999).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

40 medicinal plant species belonging to 35 families are enumerated in the present work. All the plant species arranged with Botanical name, family, vernacular name, parts use and modes of use. The parts used consist of leaves, roots, whole plants, fruit seeds, rhizome stem, bark, heartwood. Fresh and dried plant parts depending upon preparation. The drugs are prepared as paste, decoction, and expressed juice, powder etc. These preparations are use for external and internal applications. The oral administration includes use of decoction.

Calatropis gigantea (L.) R.Br. (Asclepiadaceae)

'Ruchaki' Slightly warmed leaves with olive oil are applied over the scrotum to cure hydrocele. The affected area and to cure back pain, swelling leaf coated with coconut oil is slightly heated and pressed on the affected area.

Carica papaya L. (Caricaceae),

'Papaya' utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded. Ripe fruits are used as making pudding, juices; leaves are used as feed for poultry utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

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Syzygium cuminii (L.) skeels. (Myrtaceae)

'Jamun' Stem bark is chewed to treat inflammation of Tonsils. Roasted fruit are used as a remedy for piles and cold, utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Terminalia chebula Retz. (Combretaceae)

'Hirda' utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded. Stem bark is chewed to treat inflammation of tonsils; roasted fruits are used as a remedy for piles and cold, utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Plumbago zeylanica L. (plumbaginaceae)

'Dhola Chita' utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded. Decoction made from about 50 g. of whole plant in a glass of water (about 200 ml) take twice daily for night blindness. Root paste applied to get rid of pain and swelling. Utilized by Jogi P. B. at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Andrographis paniculata (Burm.f) Wall ex. Nees. (Acanthaceae)

'Bhuinimba' Leaf (50 ml) given for scabies and the paste applied locally used by Madawi N.R. at Bhagwati Dist. Nanded.



Diplocyclos palmatus (L.) Jaffery. (Cucurbitaceae)

'Siba' seeds pounded and mixed in Karanj (*Pongamia pinnata*) oil; 3-4 drops of oil obtained after filtering put in the ear twice a day to cure Earache. Pus formation if any also ceases in 2 applications, utilized by Gupta at Mahur Dist. Nanded.

Cuscuta reflexa Roxb. (Convolvulaceae)

'Akasbeli' Plant juice dose of about four teaspoons twice a day, utilized by Madawi N.R. Dist. Nanded to cure jaundice and fever.

Tinospora cordifolia (Willd.) Hook, f. and Thoms. (Menispermaceae)

'Gulwel' 3 gm. Root paste mixed with 'Til oil' is applied once a day for 7 days to treat skin diseases utilized by Tauphic Khan at Kinwat Dist. Nanded.

Argemone mexicana L. (Papaveraceae) Dantari bahal.

2gm dried seed powder mixed with 2gm leaf paste of *Andrographis paniculata* is applied externally to treat skin diseases twice a day for 9 days utilized by 'Tauphic Khan at Kinwat Dist. Nanded.

Zingiber officinale Roxb. (Zingiberaceae)

'Adrak' 25 ml of rhizome extract for stomach disorders, utilized by P. Baswaraj at Parali-Vajjnath Dist. Beed.

Cissus quadrangularis L. (Vitaceae)

'Hadjodi' Stem paste eaten raw for indigestion utilized by Naganathappa Swami at Chakur Dist. Latur.

Andrographis paniculata Nees. (Acanthaceae)

Leaf juice and Root bark utilized for skin boils leucoderma, 25 g. leaf 35 ml of water pasted applied on skin boils daily 3-4 h. before bathing 10 g. root bark powder, 15 ml coconut oil pasted, applied in leucoderma, while sleeping for 7 days utilized by Gutte Bapurao at Parli Vajjnath Dist. Beed.

Thespesia populneoides (Roxb.) Kostel. 'Poonarvasu' (Malvaceae)

75 gm. of stem bark pasted in 100 ml water 30 g. paste, 25 ml honey together taken 2-5 days for uterine problems irregular menstruation. 75 gm of stem bark pasted in 100 ml water 25 gm paste and 25 ml honey together taken 2 TDP, 2-5 days for uterine problems 5 gm. Flower powder with 100 ml milk given daily at morning for 15 days to regulate menstrual cycle utilized by Ramgade V. at Anandwadi Dist. Nanded

Eclipta prostrata (L.) (Asteraceae)

Leaf Juice drunk with sufficient water for dysentery among children utilized by Ramgade V.R. at Anandwadi Dist. Nanded.

Hibiscus-rosasinensis L. (Malvaceae)

'China rose' leaf paste applied on forehead for headache, utilized by Gutte Bapurao of Parli Vajjnath Dist. Beed.

Ocimum americanum L. (Lamiaceae) 'Bantulsi'

Seed decoction drunk twice daily for dysentery. Root paste eaten as anticlot to snake poison, utilized by Kasthinath Baba Khadeshwari at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Cocculus hirsutus L. Diels. (Menispermaceae)

'Dahdahia', 'Bhadark' Decoction of leaf drunk, twice daily, to cure cholera. Root paste eaten as anticlot to snake poison, utilized by Kasthinath Baba Khadeshwari at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Achyranthes aspera L. (Amranthaceae)

'Aaparmarana' leaf juice given for vomiting due to indigestion utilized by K.B. Khadeshwari at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Curcuma aromatica Salisb. (Zingiberaceae)

'Ambihalad' juice of Rhizome applied on scabies twice daily for a week. Utilized by Gutte Baburao at Parli Vajinath Dist. Beed.



Mr. Khadeshwari Kasthinath Baba

Dalbergia sissoo Roxb. ex DC. (Fabaceae)

'Sisau' paste of about 200 g. leaves with little common salt given for diarrhoea, twice daily for three days. Utilized by Lahane Gopal Sopanrao at Parli Vajinath Dist. Beed.

Allium cepa L. (Liliaceae)

'piyaz' about 100 g. paste of bulb mixed with mustard oil and given in cough thrice daily till cured utilized by Kadam V.T. at Nawanda Dist. Beed.

Aloe brbadensis Mill. (Liliaceae)

'Korephad' about 10 g. leaf pulp mixed with little common salt given as preventive of miscarriage, once or twice weekly, until delivery, utilized by Jadhav M.K. at Loni Dist. Nanded.

Sizygium cumini (L.) Skeels.

'Jamun' seeds powder with warm water 2 gm. twice a day utilized by jogi P.C. at Daheli Dist. Nanded.

Butea monosperma (Lam) Taub.

'Palas' Root bark Powder 2 gm. with ½ glass warm water given orally daily to the patient of Blood-pressure. Utilized by Madawi R.N. at Daheli Dist. Nanded

Rauvolfia serpentina (L.) Benth. ex. Kurz,

'Sarpagandha' (Apocynaceae) Root powder 2gm with warm water given orally daily given to the patient of Blood pressure utilized by Madne R.S. at Loha Dist. Nanded.

Caesalpinia bonduc (L.) Roxb, 'Sagargota' (Caesalpinaceae) seed powder with warm water given orally to cure fever utilized by Munde B.V. at Saradgaon Dist. Beed.

Acacia catechu (L.F.) Willd. (Mimosaceae)

'Khair' bark, heart wood powder given with water orally, to cure chest pain utilized by Gowale M.D. at Kakhandi Dist. Nanded.

Phyllanthus emblica L. (Euphorbiaceae)

'Avla' Fruit and seed powder given orally, with warm to the patient of Asthma, Bronchitis utilized by Magare K.R. at Kakhandi Dist. Nanded.

Terminalia bellerica Roxb. (Combretaceae)

'Beheda' Fruit and seed powder given orally 2gm with warm water given orally to the patient of Asthma and Bronchitis utilized by Magare K.R. at Kakhandi Dist. Nanded

Momordica charantia L. (Cucurbitaceae)

'Karela' Swaras give orally to the patient of Diabetes utilized by Narwade Gangadhar at Magare K.R. Dist. Nanded.



Mr. Magare K.R.
[giving traditional medicines]

Ocimum sanctum L. 'Tulsi' (Lamiaceae); *Piper nigrum* L.,

'Golmirch' (piperaceae); *Tinospora cordifolia* Hook. f and Thoms. 'Gulwel' (Menispermaceae), decoction given orally two tea spoonful to the patient of fever utilized by More R.B. At Ambajogai Dist. Beed.

Tribulus terrestris L. (Zygophyllaceae) 'Gokhru' Decoction of fruit given orally, to the patient of Kidney stone, utilized by Mukhedkar S.K. at Degloor Dist. Nanded.

Moringa oleifera Linn. (Moringaceae) 'Shevga'

To get relief from severe cough and choked voice take few leaves of this tree and squeezed with little salt on the palm. Add some lime and apply around neck utilized by Mohanlal Gupta at Mahur Dist. Nanded.

Picrorrhiza kurrooa Royle (Scrophulariaceae) 'Kutri'

Luke warm extract of dried roots for gastro intestinal complaints and fever due to cold. Fresh rootlets boiled in water and given as liver protect ant. One teaspoonful root powder, three times a day with honey, for jaundice, asthma and loss of appetite. Utilized by Madawi N.R. at Bhagwati Dist. Nanded.

Phyllanthus emblica L. (Euphorbiaceae) 'Amla'

About 1gm each of fruit *Terminalia bellerica* Roxb. 'Beheda' and *pinus amygdaws* Batsch. 'Chinabadam' are boiled in 6 lit. water till only 1 lit. left. It is made into a paste 10-15 gm. of paste with 50 ml milk or water given twice daily on empty stomach utilized to cure diabetes used by Madawi N.R. at Bagwati Dist. Nanded.

Conclusion

The present study deals with 40 species of medicinal plants, has been used by local inhabitants. These plants commonly used against various diseases such as, fever, Asthma, Bronchitis. Kidney stones, dysentery, skin diseases. The plant species either singly or in combination with another plants or plant parts. Different local inhabitants utilize the plants study area remains unexplored up till now. Study area is rich in medicinal plants, which needs the attention of Botanists NGO'S and Government for their progress. The indigenous knowledge utilized by local inhabitants is very useful, so it must be preserved and protected for future generations.

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